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Mount Vernon

To : Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

From : Dan Storck, Supervisor
Mount Vernon District

Subject: BOARD MATTERS for May 1, 2018

For your consideration, I submit the following Board Matters accompanied by a brief explanation. Your support will be appreciated.

1. Request for a Proclamation on the 185th Anniversary of the Establishment of Gum Springs

**1. JOINT BOARD MATTER WITH CHAIRMAN SHARON
BULOVA - Request for a Proclamation on the 185th Anniversary
of the Establishment of Gum Springs**

Background

Established in 1833, Gum Springs is the oldest African American community in Fairfax, VA. Founded by slaves freed after the passing of Martha Washington, and under the leadership of freed slave West Ford, the community of Free Blacks was constructed along the banks of the Potomac River near Alexandria and Mount Vernon. Gum Springs soon became a refuge and home to other freed and runaway slaves, and its economy thrived with assistance from neighboring Quakers.

Today, Gum Springs remains a cohesive and predominantly black community of more than 2,500 residents, with as many as 500 descendants of the original families. The Gum Springs Historical Society's Museum and Cultural Center was founded to celebrate and preserve this historic community's artifacts, photographs and information on the residents and founding families of Gum Springs.

Gum Springs is within walking distance of shopping, Sherwood Regional Library, INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital, the Mount Vernon Governmental Center and churches of various denominations to include Bethlehem Baptist Church, Harvest Assembly Baptist Church, St. John Baptist Church, Woodlawn-Faith UMC, Cornerstone Church of Christ, Greater Morning Star Apostolic Church and Mt. Vernon Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses.

Gum Springs will celebrate 185 years of its founding on Saturday, June 16, 2018, with the Gum Springs Community Day and Parade.

Proposed Action

Therefore, Madame Chair, I ask, with unanimous consent, that the Office of Public Affairs prepare a proclamation commending and congratulating the citizens of Gum Springs on their 185th anniversary.